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USAID/UGANDA BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

Quarterly Report: October - December 2014

Submitted January 2015

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USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program

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Implementing Partners

The following organizations comprise the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program implementation team:

African Wildlife Foundation (AWF): AWF is the prime leader of the implementation team. It is an international non-governmental organization committed to conserving Africa's natural resources while leveraging the continent's tremendous natural endowment for economic growth and improved livelihoods for its people. AWF was founded in 1961 to improve the capacity of African institutions and individuals to manage wildlife and other natural resources. AWF's program has evolved and today is based on an integrated landscape-scale approach that conserves critical habitats, enables sustainable natural resource management, and improves livelihoods. AWF's mission is to *work with the people of Africa to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa endure forever*. With over 53 years of experience in conservation and enterprise development in Africa, AWF brings relevant and needed lessons learned to the USAID|Uganda Biodiversity Program.

AWF's work in Uganda has also entailed over two decades of support to Uganda Wildlife Authority especially through support to Lake Mburo, Bwindi Impenetrable, and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks, in partnership with USAID. Since 2002, AWF and USAID|Uganda partnership explicitly yielded the conception and creation of the Visitor Center at the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park and the world-class Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge at Nkuringo outside of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. AWF has supported the improvement in ecological monitoring and patrolling in the gorilla parks, including support to the 2003 and 2011 gorilla censuses, and has built capacity and supported alternative livelihoods projects in Uganda.

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI): Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) continues Dr. Goodall's pioneering research on chimpanzee behavior – research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals. JGI's work in Uganda focuses on four major forested areas that are home to more than 75% of the country's estimated population of 5,000 chimpanzees: Budongo Central Forest Reserve, Bugoma Forest Reserve, Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve, and Kibale National Park.

USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program also works with the following partner institutions:

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA): UWA is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to manage 10 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Reserves, and 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries. It also provides guidance to the management of 5 Community Wildlife Areas. UWA's mission is to conserve and sustainably manage the wildlife in and outside protected areas of Uganda in partnership with neighboring communities and stakeholders for the benefit of the people of Uganda and the global community. It is committed to adhere to the international conventions and protocols to which Uganda is a party.

National Forestry Authority (NFA): NFA manages the central forest reserves on a sustainable basis to supply high quality forestry-related products to government, local communities and the private sector. NFA mission is to ensure a *sufficiently forested, ecologically stable and economically prosperous Uganda*. Its policy is to broaden the NFA revenue base in terms of new products, services, development assistance and other innovative sources of funding, as well as better marketing strategies of the already existing products as a way forward to addressing some of the challenges of capacity and limited funding.

Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities: The mandate of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) is “to formulate and implement policies, strategies, plans and programs that promote tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage conservation for socio-economic development and transformation of the country.” The **Vision** is to have “sustainable tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage, contributing to the transformation of the Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous one” and the **Mission** is “to develop and promote tourism, wildlife and cultural heritage resources for enhancement of Uganda as a preferred tourist destination, with accelerated sector contribution to the national economy.”

Ministry of Water and Environment: The ministry is responsible for setting national policies and standards, managing and regulating the environment and natural resources, and supervises the autonomous agencies like the National Forestry Authority (NFA), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), National Water and Sewage Corporation (NWSC) and the Climate Change Unit (CCU).

Acronyms

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CFM	Community Forest Management
GMP	General Management Plans (UWA)
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTWA	Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
NECPA	North East Chili Producers' Association
NFA	National Forest Authority (Uganda)
NPs	National Parks
PA	Protected Area
PMP	Performance Management Plan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

Target High Biodiversity Areas (National Parks and Forest Reserves)

MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
KVNP	Kidepo Valley National Park
LMNP	Lake Mburo National Park
BCFR	Budongo Central Forest Reserve
KCFR	Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve

Summary

The major activities during this quarter were the development of a revised application and work plan as well as revitalizing previous links with the communities and organizations we work with in the program site.

Towards the end of the quarter activities were initiated under the non-tourism enterprise program in Kidepo Valley and Murchison Falls program sites. Farmers/scouts groups have been identified, leadership selected for both sites and training for chili nursery establishment has been undertaken for Kidepo Valley with Murchison Falls schedules for January 2015.

Several procurement processes were also initiated during this quarter, especially for acquisition of ecological and road maintenance equipment as well as the installation of various infrastructure along monitoring trails. The long awaited installation of signage in LMNP was also commenced.

A table summarizing achievements for the quarter is provided below.

Summary of the progress of implementation of activities for the quarter

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
General									
Develop revised application for the Biodiversity Program as per USAID guidelines	Complete revision and seek approval from USAID for the Biodiversity Program application	✓				Draft application reviewed based on comments from USAID and approval received.	100	Modified contract signed based on approved revision of the application	
Develop 2014 – 2015 work plan based on approved revised application	Work plan for 2014 – 2015 developed, submitted to USAID and approval received	✓				Work plan developed and submitted to USAID for approval in December 2014	99	Awaiting approval/ comments from USAID	✓
Revise performance management plan based on changed priorities	PMP revised, submitted to USAID and approved	✓				Revision of PMP ongoing. Indicators and tools reviewed, including developing additional ones to take care of new focus on non-tourism enterprises. Awaiting approval of work plan for final edits before submission to USAID.	75		✓
	Undertake program baseline survey to fill gaps resulting from the refocusing of program activities	✓				SOW developed based on data /baseline identified. This will be used to solicit for bids and select firm to undertake the baseline survey	25		✓
Development of various maps for the program	Develop and print maps	✓				Nine different maps for LMNP and KVNP developed and printed.	80	Additional maps to be developed based on activities being undertaken	✓

¹ Percentage refers to how much of the whole activity is completed. In many cases the activities are planned for more than one quarter.

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Model I: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development									
Training of UWA and NFA staff in collection and analysis of ecological data:	Complete training of NFA staff and selected community members in the use of Open Data Kit in collecting ecological and threat monitoring data	✓				Open Data Kit review and refresher training conducted December 16 th to 18 th , 2014 at Kalinzu CFR a total of 23 participants (6 female, 17 male, all youth <35) from Budongo and Kalinzu CFRs participated including 3 sector Managers	50		✓
Support UWA in the acquisition of monitoring equipment to enhance monitoring and reduce human wildlife conflicts	Support UWA acquire ecological monitoring equipment	✓				Worked with UWA to agree on the required equipment (types and numbers) and jointly developed specifications. Procurement process initiated to acquire equipment	30	The numbers of each type of equipment revised based on needs and available budget	✓
Develop guidelines for chimpanzee conservation in Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve	Develop guidelines for chimpanzee conservation in Kalinzu CFR					Activities planned to start next quarter			✓
Complete establishment of monitoring trails in LMNP, KVNP, BCFR and KCFR started under USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program	Develop signage and trail facilities on the 15 km trails established in KVNP	✓				Numbers and location of infrastructure agreed on, designs developed for sheds, walk boards and benches.	8		✓
	Install 3 telescopes for monitoring in KVNP	✓				Installation sites have been identified, inspected and agreed upon by KVCA/UWA; Process of identifying designer and contractor initiated with UWA	8		✓
	Develop and install signage and interpretation to support monitoring along the 15km 4 trails (15 signs, 3 sheds & benches, 1 toilet) in LMNP	✓				Bidding documents developed and approved by LMNP Contracts committee and circulated to bidders (UWA pre-qualified list).	8	Bidders expected early January 2015. Evaluation Committee to evaluate before award is given to best competitive bidder	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Install signage along monitoring tracks within and outside LMNP: (145 signs)	✓				Installation started with major signs mainly outside the park and at the gates. A total of 15 signs in place. Internal park signs to be completed in January 2015	10	Work to continue after the Christmas break	✓
	Support NFA to install toilets, rest sheds and signage along the 57-kilometer monitoring trail in Budongo CFR	✓				Contractors shortlisted and pending review before they are requested to submit bids for installation of infrastructure	5		
	Provide communication and trail support structures along NFA monitoring trails	✓				Procurement process initiated and ongoing	75		
	Procure and supply NFA trail maintenance tools and field gear and equipment	✓				Procurement process initiated. List of equipment developed for discussion with NFA	5		
	Reopen the out-of-use forest patrol trails and map existing ones	✓				Consultative meeting with Kalinzu CFR sector managers and forest supervisors was held in December 2014 in Kalinzu CFR to select priority trails for reopening based on NFA priorities and informed by a report produced by the program in Year I. Trail opening will start next quarter.	5		
	Procure road equipment for UWA to support the opening and maintenance of roads for natural resource management and monitoring	✓				Discussions with UWA on the development of MoU for the management of road equipment initiated and a draft has been developed. Agreement on specifications for the equipment reached between UWA & AWF. Will submit MOU to USAID for approval next quarter.	60		✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Model II: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation									
Print and disseminate educational and informational materials produced under the Tourism for Biodiversity program in support of conservation education and awareness.	Create awareness of protected areas and their attractions and biodiversity importance.	✓				Procured a printing company and printing almost complete	80	Books are expected to be delivered mid-January 2015.	✓
Mobilize communities (youth from colleges and universities, schools and general public) around LMNP and Mbarara Municipality to conserve River Rwizi basin a source of lake Mbuoro waters used by wildlife and ranchers	Mobilize the public through different platforms to carry out conservation projects in the lake/river basin	✓				Met with possible partners, including Mbarara University Guild, Nile Breweries, Coca Cola and Radio West to chart out how the campaigns will be undertaken	50	Positive interest from possible partners	✓
Lake Mbuoro National Park awareness campaign – “for Uganda to thrive, wildlife must survive”	Design messages intended to educate and mobilize the public to be friends of the park and lobby both national and local government and the judiciary to formulate and implement responsible conservation policies.	✓				Contacts made with Radio West to discuss about their participation in the campaign. Additional partners to be identified in the next quarter	30	Commitment received from Radio West to be part of the campaign	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Equip LMNP community education center to rejuvenate UWA conservation education programs.	Procure and install: 1 computer, 1 flip chart stand, 1 white board, 1 projector and projector screen to support community education and awareness activities for LMNP community education center	✓				Specifications developed and agreed upon with UWA.	10	Procurement to be done in the next quarter	✓
Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation Awareness-building Conservation Gender Specialist Working Group Advocacy and Mentoring Mentoring Program	Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation through a mentoring program	✓				Met with five senior women conservation leaders and formed a working group. The conservation leaders will support the mentorship program by each mentoring young women in conservation and management. Next quarter program will explore partnership with UWA internship program.	30	Action plan for mentors developed.	✓
Model III: Conservation Enterprise Development									
Support the communities around MFNP and KVNP to increase red chili production for increased household income and problem animal control	Identify and develop MoU with chili producers and businesses who will provide technical expertise to scouts and farmers	✓				Identified North East Chili Producers' Association for technical expertise as well as marketing of chili for the groups in KVNP and MFNP.	100	MoU developed and signed with the association and training of farmers started with KVNP groups	
	Engage farmers and community groups in chili growing for human wildlife mitigation and improved livelihoods in Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties (KVNP)	✓				Two chili growing farmers' associations setup and leadership elected. Farmers trained in red pepper production. Two nurseries set up including provision of nursery management equipment	20	Farmers enthusiastic and participated in the training.	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Work with UWA to engage farmers and wildlife scouts in Koch Goma MFNP in the growing of chili for human wildlife conflict mitigation and income generation	✓				Liaised with MFNP to agree on selection of farmers/scouts for training and training dates set for the next quarter.	30	Training program set and participants notified	Actual training to be in the next quarter
Support CFM groups of Budongo and Kalinzu to increase honey production in order increase their household income	Support selected bee keeping farmers/ groups neighboring Kalinzu CFR to improve honey production through training, provision of equipment and market linkages	✓				Conducted value chain baseline assessment meetings with Swazi Bataka Kwetugula Bee Keeping Group (44 member husband/wife families and owning 70 bee hives); Swazi Bayangyuki Bee Keeping Group with a total of 26 members (12 are female and 14 male and owning over 100 bee hives); and Rweyamihondo Self Help Bee Keeping Group with 62 members (6 male members and 56 female members).	10	Findings will be used to tailor interventions.	✓
Model IV: Management of wildlife outside protected areas									
Work with the local government in Kaabong district to approve the implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan	Work with the sub county and district local government in Kaabong district to approve implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan	✓				Final edits on the land use plan completed and copies printed and submitted to the two sub counties and district for approval. Karenga sub county considered approval of the land use plan in its sitting on December 19 and referred it to a select committee for further scrutiny before approval. Lobalangit sub county plans to consider plan in the New Year.	50	The District Planning Executive Committee will wait for approvals from sub counties before consideration of the plan	✓
Support establishment of a conservancy on ranches neighboring LMNP	30 km ² of conservancy established	✓				Revitalizing discussion with the planning committee undertaken early December 2014. One conservancy Planning Committee meeting held to lay ground for developing conservancy constitution	15	A sub-committee has been selected to draft a constitution for the ranchers Association. Meeting with District set for next quarter.	✓

Activity as in Work Plan	Planned/Target as in work plan	Implementation plan				Progress/Achievement to date (December 31, 2014)	% completed ¹	Remarks	Planned next quarter
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
	Support cultural activities of the Ankole Cow Cultural Conservation Association (ACCA) that enhance community appreciation of biodiversity and conservation activities of LMNP	✓				An MoU between AWF and ACCA to guide program support to activities of ACCA has been drafted, discussed and ready for signing.	10	MoU to be signed and implementation starts in the next quarter	✓
Build capacity of UWA and communities to develop conservancies in Uganda	Organize and undertake study tour to Kenya for selected UWA and community members	✓				Liaised with AWF Hqs to develop program, contact conservancies to be visited and invite UWA and communities to nominate participants in the study tour	50	12 UWA and community members to travel to Kenya January 25 to 31, 2015 for the study tour	✓
Support UWA to develop guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancy)	Support UWA to develop guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancy)	✓				Initial discussions with UWA and AWF Director for land conservation on process and programming for development of guidelines held.	20	Firming up plans and additional discussions on guidelines to be undertaken during the Kenya study tour before AWF Land Conservation Director will come to Uganda to provide further support to UWA next quarter.	✓

1 Detailed Report

This report has been prepared based on the new program strategy of AWF piloting sustainable conservation models for UWA and NFA. The lessons and skills gained from this process are expected to be transferred and institutionalized in the two organizations. Four models were identified:

- Model 1: Ecological monitoring capacity development: this model is intended to ensure UWA and NFA acquire the necessary techniques and capacity, as well as tools and equipment, to roll out an institutional ecological monitoring system.
- Model 2: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation: This model focuses on mobilizing both public and private sector support for biodiversity conservation especially in support of UWA activities in LMNP.
- Model 3: Conservation Enterprise Development: This model works towards the creation of opportunities for communities living near protected areas to benefit from biodiversity conservation. AWF will promote and build capacity for bee keeping around NFA focal estate – Budongo and Kalinzu, and chili pepper growing and marketing with communities around KVNP and MFNP.
- Model 4: Management of Wildlife outside Protected Areas: This model supports UWA to develop a systematic conservancy program for communities and private sector engagement in the management of wildlife outside protected areas for improved livelihoods and reduced human wildlife conflicts.

This report is therefore organized under the models except for the first section labeled “General” which focuses on the general programmatic activities such as developing of work plans and PMP.

2 General activities

2.1 Revision of Program Application

Following the request from USAID/Uganda Mission, AWF in consultation with UWA, NFA and JGI revised the application specifically to include activities to address the implementation of non-tourism enterprises and drop tourism enterprises previously being implemented. The application review was undertaken in August 2014, comments received from the Mission and final draft submitted in September 2014. Approval for the application was received in October 2014 and a contract modification developed, agreed to and signed.

Relatedly, the program developed the Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan (EMMP) for construction activities which after review by the USAID Mission were also approved.

2.2 Development of 2014 - 2015 work plan

Following the approval of the revised application, the program embarked on developing the work plan for the period October 2014 to September 2015. The preparation was based on the approved revised application as well as consultations with the USAID Mission, UWA, NFA and JGI. The work plan was submitted to USAID Uganda Mission for approval, which is expected in early January 2015.



Consultations with MFNP UWA staff on development of work plan for the period October 2014 to September 2015

2.3 Revision of the Performance Management Plan (PMP)

Based on the program strategy changes, the program performance management plan has been revised to ensure it remains current and relevant. A new theory of change was elaborated in line with the change to include non-tourism activities and this resulted in modification of program expected results, and outcomes. The new program theory of change hypothesizes that 1) improving the capacity of conservation managers and institutions to effectively implement PA conservation and management strategies, 2) improving access to

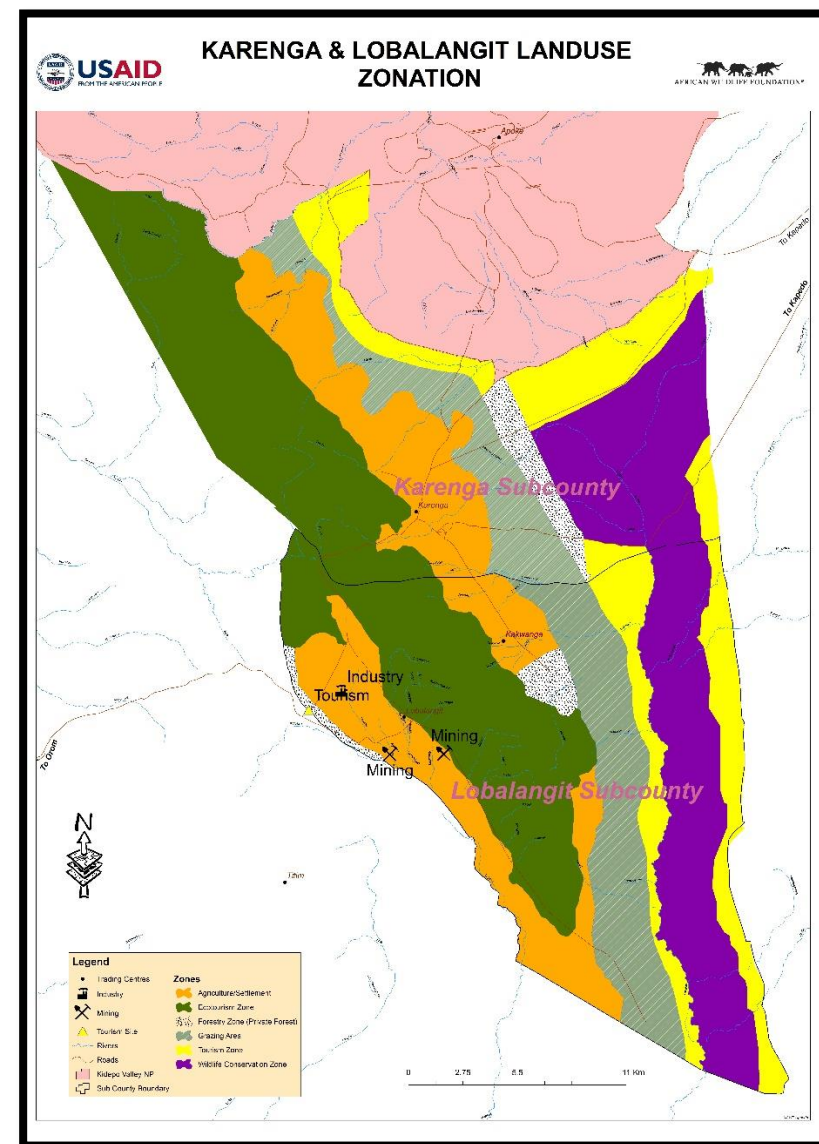
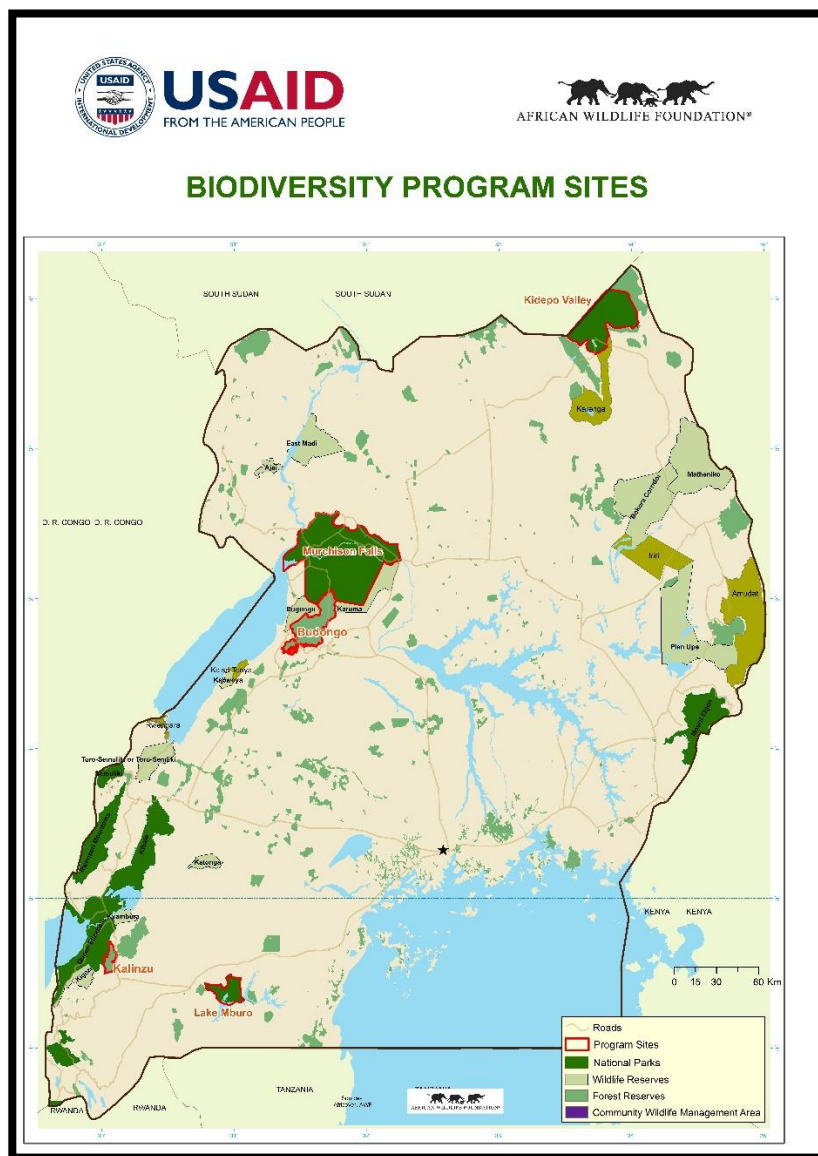
conservation information through addressing key conservation knowledge gaps and perceptions, and mobilizing political will; and 3) creating opportunities for communities to benefit from biodiversity conservation and other non-tourism wildlife friendly enterprises; will reduce critical threats to Uganda's biodiversity thereby ensuring its survival for generations.

These changes necessitate an introduction of new indicators to measure and capture program performance and progress in the new result areas. As a consequence, a total of eleven new indicators have been suggested and seven of the old indicators were dropped. The program also validated the selected and modified indicators, and consequently set targets for those indicators whose baselines are already available, and reference sheets for each of the new and modified indicators have been developed. It is on this basis that the program has scheduled a supplemental baseline survey to fill the baseline data gaps created by the changes in the program strategy. The terms of reference for the survey have been drafted and the sample areas identified. A consultant will be procured during the next quarter to undertake the baseline survey and gather the required data.

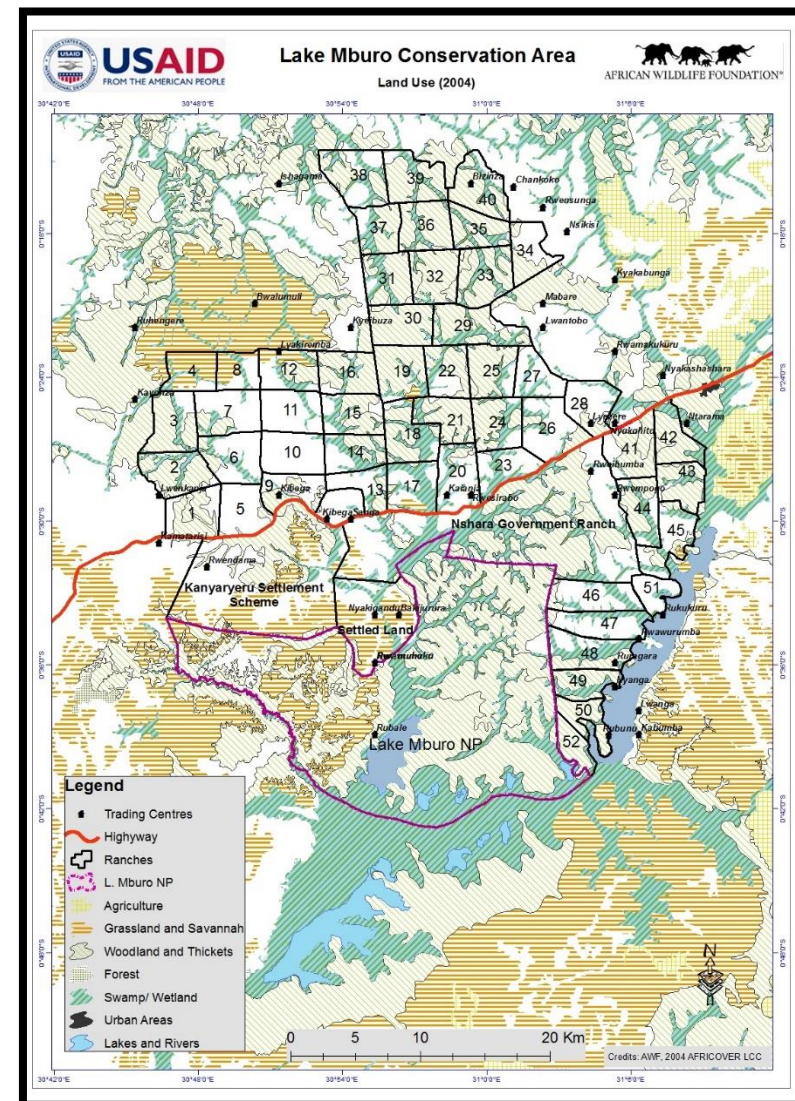
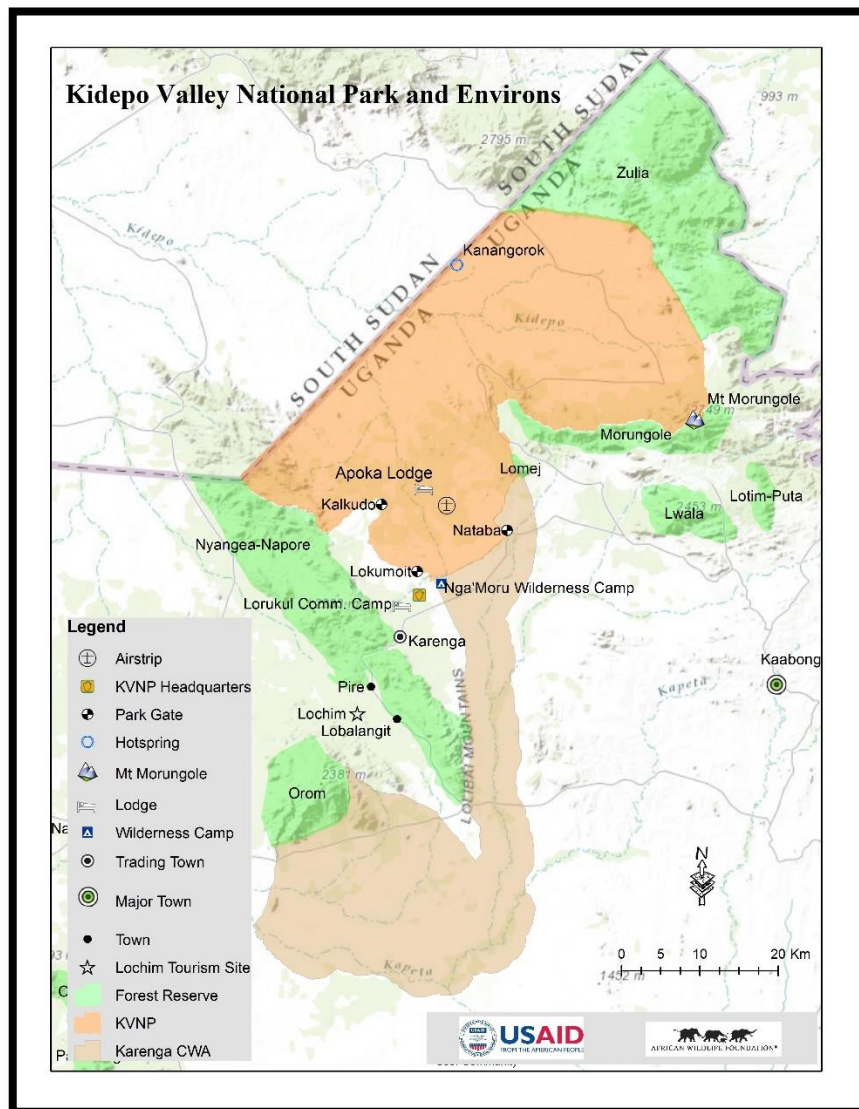
The required data collection tools for the new indicators have also been drafted and old ones revised to accommodate the new changes in program strategy. Three additional templates to facilitate activity and monthly reporting by the program team, as well as reporting on the anticipated enterprises has also been designed. A meeting with the entire program technical team has been scheduled for the coming quarter to discuss the tools, data protocols and quality issues as well as roles and responsibilities for data collection.

2.4 Development of program maps for information dissemination and planning

A number of maps had been produced under the USAID/ Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program; these maps were all edited to reflect changes in the program design to the new Program. They have now been printed to provide information to partners, but also for use in planning of various activities. The maps include: map of Uganda showing new program name and sites, two maps, one showing the Kidepo and the other Lake Mburo program site and environs, two maps for Lake Mburo one showing potential area for and the other initial planned area for conservancy development, satellite map of Kidepo area with current land use as well as three maps indicating the zoning scheme for the land use for a) Karenga sub county, b) Lobalangit sub county and c) combined Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties.



Maps produced and edited to reflect changes in the program design



Continuation of the maps produced and edited due to changes in the progra.

2.5 Re-Branding

Following the program change of name to USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program, AWF is currently working on rebranding of all its branded items (office signage, cars, and document templates. Document templates have already been changed to reflect the new brand while the procurement process has been initiated for office signage and car stickers. It is expected that the work will be accomplished in early January.



3 Model I: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development

3.1 Training of UWA and NFA staff in collection and analysis of ecological data

3.1.1 *Complete training of NFA staff and selected community members in the use of Open Data Kit in collecting ecological and threat monitoring data*

Starting in Year I, this program has been developing a simple, practical and easy to use community mobile mapping and monitoring platform. The system uses open source mobile apps such as Open Data Kit (ODK), Android phones/tablets and Google cloud technologies to support field data collection.

Refresher training was undertaken in December 2014 for NFA staff and neighboring communities for the Kalinzu and Budongo CFRs. The objectives of the training was to refresh NFA staff, forest guides, Community Forest Management (CFM) teams with the technical skills of using smart phones/devices to monitor biodiversity and record threats within the two central forest reserves. The training also had the objective of ascertaining the successes and challenges of using ODK, troubleshooting the tablets and uploading any data that had not been uploaded to the cloud. During the training, all tablets were updated with software and forms and given to target users to enable them collect and upload data. All ODK operators are now able to use the tablet to collect data, edit it and then upload it to the cloud.



USAID Mission field visit and participating in the ODK refresher training in Kalinzu CFR

A total of 23 personnel (6 women and 17 men) from National Forest Authority (Forest Guides, Patrolmen, Forest Supervisors and Sector Managers) and community forest monitors around Kalinzu and Budongo central forest reserves benefited from this training. Eleven of the trainees were from Budongo CFR with the rest from Kalinzu.

3.1.2 Training of UWA staff in ecological monitoring

Preliminary discussions with UWA of training for UWA staff (KVNP, LMNP and MFNP) were initiated with a training set for the second and third quarter. Details of the training content and program will be agreed on in the next quarter.

3.2 Support UWA in the acquisition of ecological monitoring equipment

This quarter, USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program has engaged UWA to agree on specifications and quantities of the equipment. Based on the available budget and UWA's priorities, fifty GPS sets with internal 5megapixel cameras and corresponding carry cases will be procured as well as fifteen ranger finders and nine cameras (with internal GPS). The procurement process has already commenced with AWF Hq. procurement unit awaiting bids from potential suppliers.

3.3 Complete establishment of monitoring trails in LMNP, KVNP, BCFR and KCFR

3.3.1 *Monitoring trails in Kidepo Valley National Park*

AWF working with KVNP staff undertook an assessment of the requirements for the monitoring trails in KVNP previously established under USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program. The required types and quantities of infrastructure needed were identified and established. The following infrastructure was identified as required along the 15 km of trail to make it fully functional:

- a) 3 directional signages,
- b) 3 interpretive signages for resource interpretation,
- c) 2 warning signages,
- d) 3 board walks in soggy river beds,
- e) 2 bridges on narrow river valleys,
- f) 1 shed/ resting hut.

The infrastructure has been designed and approval received to proceed together with the EMMP. In the next quarter, bids will be sought, evaluated and best evaluated bidder selected to undertake the installation.

3.3.2 *Installation of 3 telescopes for monitoring along the trails in KVNP*

Three monitoring telescopes were procured in the previous quarter, and this quarter preliminary work has been done to identify potential areas for installation of the telescopes.

AWF is now working with UWA to identify suitable locations for three surveillance posts within the Narus Valley of KVNP, design structures for the installation and protection of the equipment, design in situ orientation panels to enable users to relate observations to local landmarks and supervise construction of structures and the installation of telescopic equipment. Areas will be identified based on location of sites for installation on vantage (raised) points for better monitoring in an almost 360⁰.

3.3.3 *Monitoring trails in LMNP*

In LMNP, designs for the infrastructure along the 15 km of trail previously opened has already been prepared and approved by UWA. Bidding documents were prepared and approved to enable the contracts committee of LMNP initiate the process of identifying a contractor to undertake the work of installation of supporting infrastructure (signs, resting sheds, benches & toilet) along the 15km of trail. So far the contracts committee has approved the bid document, a shortlist of bidders, evaluation committee and the procurement method. The shortlisted bidders have been requested to submit bids in January 2015. An evaluation committee already approved will then evaluate the bids. Once they are done and the contracts committee approves the evaluation report, AWF will do the contracting for the work to commence.

3.3.4 Installation of signage in LMNP

Working with UWA, AWF identified a contractor to install the signage that was produced in the previous quarter. The contractor identified (through a competitive process) embarked on the installation of the signage in the second part of December 2014. Already all but three large signs mounted on poles have been installed. Three of the large signs are to be located at Lyantonde, Biharwe and Makenke are awaiting approval by the Uganda National Roads Authority before they are fixed. Park management is already working on the approvals. Work is on-going for the smaller signs which will be erected in concrete within the park and is expected to be completed in the next quarter.



Left: Nshara park entrance sign post installed by the program in LMNP

The program has contracted Sign Care (U) Ltd to install directional signage both within and outside LMNP. A total of 145 directional signs will be installed at the end of this activity. The signage includes park regulations and will help in providing relevant park information to over 20,000 people that visit the park annually.

3.3.5 Support NFA to install support infrastructure along the monitoring trails in Budongo CFR

Working with NFA, the program has undertaken on the ground geo-referencing and demarcation of the sites for out-posts, sheds and toilets. Developed the bidding document for the design and installation of the required infrastructure is underway. NFA also provided the program with a list of pre-qualified contractors to be considered (to be requested to bid). A bidding document is being finalized in preparation for issuing a request for bids for installation of the infrastructure.

Relatedly, the program is working on procurement of communication equipment (radios) and maintenance tools since the trail is rather long (57km) and therefore need for the different teams to be in touch with each other during monitoring and patrol exercises and regular maintenance. Twenty VHF handheld radios, 4 Base Stations, 2 Repeater with antenna, Solar system for radios and repeater, Base station and Repeater mast fabrication have been ordered and will be supplied. The supplier will also undertake installation and training of personnel. Installation will be complete in the next quarter.

3.3.6 Reopening the selected monitoring trails in Kalinzu CFR

As the training of patrolmen and CFM members in monitoring techniques and data collection continues in the NFA managed areas, it is important that monitoring trails are available to enable easy access to areas where data has to be collected along trails. NFA is reestablishing trails due to the need and importance for monitoring getting more appreciated as management works to ensure decision are based on reliable data and information.

During this quarter, the Program held a consultative meeting with Kalinzu CFR sector managers and forest supervisors in December 2014 at Kalinzu CFR offices to select priority trails for reopening based on NFA monitoring priorities and informed by the report produced by the program in Year I. The trails will be opened in the next quarter.

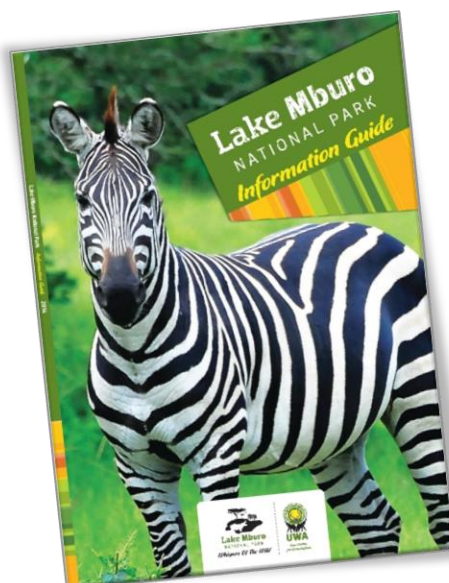
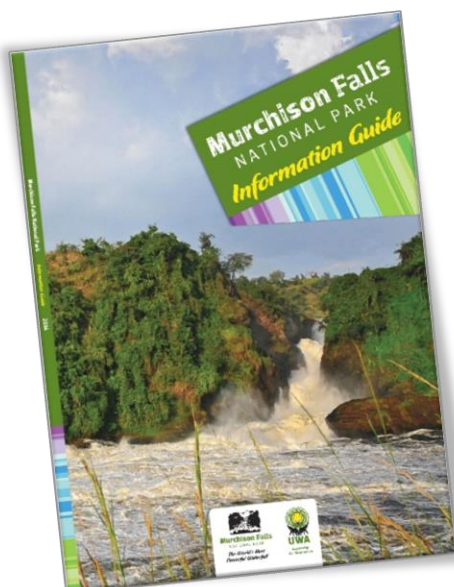
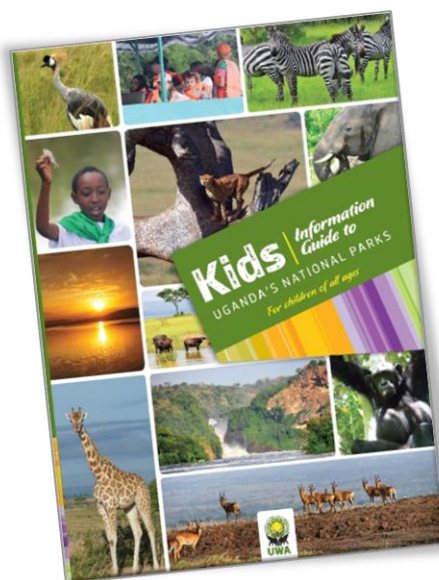
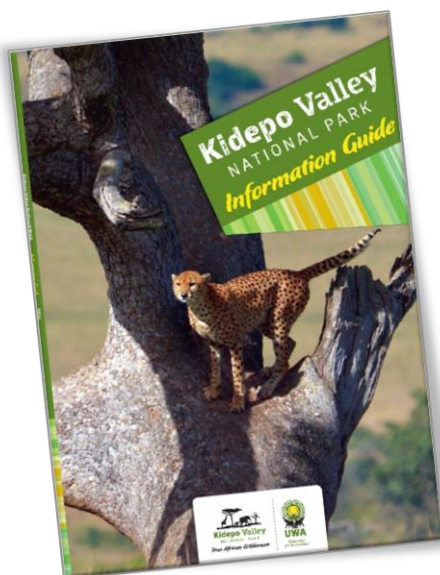
3.4 Support UWA procure equipment for opening and maintenance of roads for natural resource management and monitoring

AWF will support UWA procure key road maintenance equipment. Specifically, one bulldozer, one grader, one excavator/wheel loader, two dumper trucks, one flat bed transport and one vibrator/compactor. A draft MoU has therefore been developed and shared with UWA for their input before it is forwarded to USAID for approval. Development of bidding documents is now underway and will be submitted to USAID for approval.

4 Model II: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation

4.1 Print and disseminate educational and informational materials in support of conservation education and awareness.

To successfully raise awareness the program has procured SMK Dynamics to design and print informational materials for LMNP, MFNP and KVNP. The materials include informational/guide books for each park (LMNP 3150 copies, MFNP 1500 copies and KVNP 1500 copies) and a children's conservation book for LMNP (3000 copies). These materials were developed during the Tourism for Biodiversity Program and had been awaiting printing. Printing is expected to be complete early January. When ready the informational materials will be distributed to provide useful information about the parks and create awareness of their attractions and biodiversity importance to over 20,000 people.



The informational materials developed and now being printed

4.2 Mobilize communities (youth from colleges and universities, schools and general public) around LMNP and Mbarara Municipality to conserve River Rwizi basin a source of Lake Mburo waters used by wildlife and ranchers

The program has kicked started the process of mobilizing the public to carry out conservation projects to ensure conservation of Lake Mburo and the Rwizi river basin. In December 2014, the program met with the Mbarara University guild, an administrative body of the over 5,000 students, which committed to work with the program to implement conservation programs, including Rwizi River basin restoration and conservation and Lake Mburo conservation intervention (uprooting invasive species, litter cleanup). The program also met with and secured an interest from Radio West to support raising awareness among the populace about the program interventions including River Rwizi and Lake Mburo awareness campaigns. Partnering with Radio West that has the widest coverage of the West and South Western Uganda with an audience of over 1,500,000 people would be a great leverage in channeling

conservation awareness messages. The program also met and started attracting interest from private companies including Nile Breweries and Coca Cola to support such initiatives alongside public institutions like NEMA, the Districts NFA, and Uganda Wetlands Department, National Water and Sewerage and Corporation regional offices.

4.3 Lake Mburo National Park awareness campaign – “for Uganda to thrive, wildlife must survive” – Wildlife in Modern Africa.

The program has started to mobilize partnership to design and disseminate LMNP conservation messages to the public key messages via targeted media including radio, newspapers and billboards. The program is exploring partnering with Energy Explorz, an environmental communication company, to design suitable communication strategies and messages targeting different audiences. The program will also use the partnership with Radio West to work with on this campaign. The Energy Explorz will be key in engaging the private sector to support this activity and in designing appropriate public awareness messages. The messages are intended to educate and mobilize the public to be friends of the park and lobby both national and local government, parliament, and the judiciary to formulate and implement responsible conservation policies.

4.4 Equip LMNP community education center to rejuvenate UWA conservation education programs.

In order to improve conservation education in the park, the program plans to equip the conservation education center at LMNP by procuring education support equipment such as a computer, flip chart stand, whiteboard, projector and projector screen, and printer/photocopier. Specifications for the above equipment have been made, agreed upon with UWA and approved. Procurement will be made in the next quarter. In addition, AWF will support UWA to review the community education programs to make them more relevant and also develop reference materials for the staff and visitors.

4.5 Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation

As a follow up on the previous work with women involved in conservation, the Program this quarter met with the five women who are leaders in five different conservation agencies to develop a program and action plan for mentoring of young women and also to raise the profile of women in conservation. A draft action plan was developed providing for the five women to act as mentors to young women (fresh graduates and students on internships).

The action plan will be implemented in the coming quarters.

5 Model III: Conservation Enterprise Development

5.1 Support the communities around MFNP and KVNP to increase red chili production for increased household income and problem animal control

5.1.1 Study trip for the AWF team to the North East Chili Producers' Association in Lira

The Program is implementing red pepper (chili) growing in communities adjacent to MFNP and KVNP to ensure maximum utilization of the land and increase incomes, as well as for human wildlife conflict mitigation. Since this is generally a new area for the program, there is a need for linkage with partners who have the experience and expertise in the management and marketing of chili.

The USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program working with UWA will support the communities adjacent to MFNP and KVNP in growing red chili through provision of seeds, supporting the provision of extension services and identifying and linking them with suitable partners in processing and marketing. Other activities include targeted study tour for the AWF team and key UWA staff to Lira to visit the North East Chili Producers' Association (NECPA) headed by Hellen Acham to improve knowledge of chili growing by tapping into the technical expertise of the association.



Chili farmers - members of North East Chili Producers' Association in their gardens in Lira district

This study tour was also used to acquire experiences from interactions with the farmers in Lira and North East Chili Producers' Association (NECPA) as well as gauge their ability to train the communities and groups neighboring MFNP and KVNP in chili agronomy. NECPA will also provide technical back up on African bird eye chili production to communities adjacent to MFNP and KVNP by providing trainings in nursery establishment and management, chili agronomy and crop management, pre and post-harvest handling and marketing and market linkages for chili. During the study tour, AWF staff with the UWA staff met with different households under the NECPA association who are earning a living out of growing chili.



Hellen of NECPA explaining the different varieties and stages of chili farming to UWA and AWF staff

5.1.2 African Wildlife Foundation and North East Chili Producers' Association (NECPA)

The AWF team visited the chili farmers in Lira under the leadership of NECPA. Based on the findings of the team and discussions with NECPA and its members, AWF negotiated the development of a memorandum of understanding to guide further collaboration in chili growing activities in communities neighboring Kidepo Valley and Murchison Falls NPs.

The MoU, signed on 1st December 2014, which became operational on the same date will run for one year and provides for NECPA to give technical support to selected communities in the two sites mentioned above in chili nursery management, planting, management, harvesting, post-harvest management and marketing. NECPA will also provide market linkages and advice on profitable varieties of chili to plant.

The wider objective of this MOU is to ensure joint planning, programming, implementation and cooperation between the partners in achieving sustainable house incomes and to address human wildlife conflicts in amongst communities neighboring MFNP and KVNP.

5.1.3 Chili growing activities in areas neighboring KVNP

USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program in Kidepo working with the UWA staff organized a meeting with communities from Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties to discuss ways in which human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) could be addressed. One of the ways discussed to address the challenges of HWC was the growth and use of chili. In the community meetings communities resolved to take on chili growing as a HWC intervention as well as a strategy for improving the livelihoods.

As a result of the resolutions, two chili growing farmers associations representing 80 households were formed for Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties (Loyoro Napore and Kakwanga farmers associations). Following the formation of the associations, the UWA/AWF team in Kidepo with NECPA trained the 2 community associations (52 people) representing about 80 households in the chili nursery establishment and management as well as general chili growing. Equipment and tools for nursery establishment and management (2 spades, 6 jerricans, 2 plastic 100 liter water storage drums, 4 watering cans, 6 hand hoes, 2 wheelbarrows and 10 kg of chili seeds) were also procured and provided to the associations.



Practical session in nursery establishment in Loyoro-Napore Parish, Karenga Sub county, KVNP



Practical session in nursery establishment in Kakwanga Parish, Lobalangit Sub county, KVNPN

5.1.4 Chili growing activities in areas neighboring MFNP

In this quarter, preparations were made with MFNP staff to initiate chili growing in areas north of the park (Koch Goma and Purongo areas) as a HWC deterrent and for income generation. The communities have been informed and are ready to participate in the activities. Dates for initiation of the activity and first phase of training are scheduled for January 15 and 16, 2015. The training will result into the setting up of chili nurseries to provide seedlings for planting in March and April 2015 during the rains.

5.2 Support CFM groups of Budongo and Kalinzu to increase honey production in order increase their household income

In the second week of December 2014, USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program carried out a participatory value chain and baseline assessment study for apiary in Kyamuhunga Sub County, Swazi parish and Swazi III village located at the boundary of Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve. The Program team had discussions with stakeholders who mainly comprised of staff from the National Forest Authority and members from Swazi Bataka Kwetugula Bee Keeping Group, Rweyamihondo Self-Help Group, and Swazi Bayangyuki Bee Keeping Group. These groups are members of the Bushenyi Farmers and Bee Keepers Cooperative Society. They keep bees as a source of honey and other products for income generation as well as for HWC

mitigation. The groups' composition is as follows (youth are part of families that are involved in beekeeping activities):

1. Swazi Bataka Kwetugula Bee Keeping Group has a total of 44 members (comprising of husband/wife); they have 70 bee hives.
2. Swazi Bayangyuki Bee Keeping Group with a total of 26 members. Among these 12 are female and 14 male. The group owns more than 100 bee hives.
3. Rweyamihondo Self-Help Bee Keeping Group has 62 members with 6 male members and 56 female members.



Swazi community currently use traditional log bee hive commonly used in the areas near Kalinzu.

It was noted that most farmers using the traditional log bee hives which they make from locally available forest trees such as *Ficus natalensis*, *Antiaris toxicaria* and *Gliricidia sepium*. 60% use log hives, 30% use Kenya Top Bar hives and 10% use Langstroth bee hives. The production capacity of hives is as follows:

Type of Hives	No. of seasons	Average production (Kg)	Annual production (Kg)
Log hives	2	5	15
KTB hives	2	9	18
Langstroth hive	3	20	60

It is clear from the above that the farmers are not using the most productive bee hives and therefore production can be greatly increased with the acquisition of the Langstroth hives.

The Program also noted that most of the honey is sold locally to three main players: the cooperative societies, local retailers and middle men. Because the market is not fully established prices tend to fluctuate discouraging more activity, it is important that the

Program supports the groups to improve the market linkages and stabilize prices for more benefit to the farmers.

It was also noted that the farmers have challenges with the acquisition of harvesting gears, financial resources to purchase high quality bee hives, processing other bee products like propolis, royal jelly and wax, involvement of women and youth in the bee keeping activities as well as business management skills.

Based on this rapid appraisal of the baseline and value chain for apiary enterprises in Kalinzu, USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program will tailor specific interventions, including extensive training and technical support to the group members for improved capacity, marketing and sustainability.

Work in Budongo will commence in the next quarter.



USAID Economic Team visit to Swazi Bataka Kwetugula community near Kalizu

6 Model IV: Management of wildlife outside protected areas

6.1 Work with the local government in Kaabong district to approve the implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan

In the last quarter, final edits were made on the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plans and these edits included localization of the plans to each sub county and editing maps and formatting of the documents before printing. During this quarter, the land use plans were printed and delivered in three batches to Karenga sub-county, Lobalangit sub-county and

Kaabong district for discussion by the sub county councils and district technical planning committee.

Only Karenga sub-county was able to schedule a meeting to discuss the approval of the land use plan. The sub county council welcomed the land use plan and referred it to a select committee to scrutinize it and recommend approval. It is expected that the committee will report back to the council during the next quarter. Lobalangit sub-county is expected to schedule discussion of the land use plan next quarter. It is after the approvals from the sub counties that the plan will be tabled before the district technical planning committee.

6.2 Support establishment of a conservancy on ranches neighboring LMNP

6.2.1 *Conservancy planning activities*

One conservancy planning committee meeting was held to lay ground for developing a conservancy constitution. The meeting was attended by 22 member conservancy planning committee representing 182 ranchers. Apart from agreeing on the steps to develop the constitution, the meeting also discussed priority areas for possible support by AWF. These included mitigation towards destruction of gardens by wildlife (generally small size gardens of bananas, vegetables and sometime maize), provision of safe water for domestic use and livestock during the dry season and mitigation for disease transmission between domestic livestock and wildlife.

The meeting also agreed to form a subcommittee of 5 members from the planning committee to develop a constitution to guide the activities of the land owners Association. The first draft will be presented to the full planning committee for comments before it is presented to the whole landowner's association membership (182) in the next quarter. The constitution will be signed by the landowners who are interested in joining the conservancy as a sign of their commitment and participation.

6.2.2 *Support cultural activities that enhance community appreciation of biodiversity*

The Ankole Cow Cultural Association (ACCA) was identified as one of the community based organizations that could be used as a vehicle for creating awareness among the land owners about the value of conservancies and wildlife conservation in general. ACCA has already negotiated a MoU with UWA intended to promote the conservation of the Ankole cow as well as undertake conservation related activities.

To ensure program activities are focused and contribute to the overall objective, it was agreed between AWF and ACCA that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) be developed to guide the partnership. The MoU has been developed and was agreed on at the end of the quarter and will be ready for signing and implementation in the next quarter.

6.3 Build capacity of UWA and communities to develop conservancies in Uganda

A targeted study tour for selected UWA staff and community members to learn about the conservancy development and guidelines process from operating conservancies in Kenya is being organized by the program in the next quarter. Specifically the study tour will be conducted with the following objectives:

- Enable community members from the target areas and UWA fully appreciate the intricacies of developing and managing conservancies and the benefits thereof.
- Enable community members and UWA understand the key steps in the development of guidelines for management of CWAs (conservancies) in Uganda.
- Improve knowledge base in Uganda for development of conservancies by tapping into the technical expertise from Kenya
- Support the development of action plans for implementation by UWA and communities on return

Participants on this study tour will include UWA staff responsible for management of wildlife outside protected areas from headquarters, Lake Mburo and Kidepo National Parks; Community members neighboring Lake Mburo and Kidepo Valley National Parks involved in the development of land use plans/conservancy plans and relevant AWF Uganda staff working with UWA and communities in the development of the conservancies. The study tour is scheduled for January 25 to 31, 2015.

7 Program Visitors

The USAID Mission team visited Lake Mburo area on 15th and 16th October 2014 with the objective of generating ideas to plan for potential support to the area after the end of this Program. The team comprised of Roger Carlson and Robert Senkungu from the Economic growth team of the USAID Uganda Mission. They held a meeting with 4 representatives from the private landowners around the park, also visited one lodge owner at Rwakobo and later with the 5 UWA LMNP park staff. .

The Program received a USAID Mission team (Economic growth) on field visit in Lake Mburo and Kalinzu CFR program sites on 16th to 18th December 2014. The team comprised of Ms. Jo Lesser-Oltheten - team leader for Economic Growth, and Mr. Robert Senkungu - Environment and AOR respectively. The team leader was also making a familiarization tour of the field sites and met with 3 landowners for the proposed conservancy, and 7 LMNP officials and 23 NFA staff and community members undergoing ODK training.



USAID Mission team (Economic growth) led by Ms. Jo Lesser-Oltheten being shown monitoring trails on map of Lake Mburo NP



USAID Mission team (Economic growth) being shown the functioning of the ODK system in Kalinzu CFR



USAID Mission team (Economic growth) visit to one of the ranches in Lake Mburo

8 Planned activities for January – March 2015

Model I: Ecological Monitoring Capacity Development

1. Training of UWA and NFA staff in collection and analysis of ecological data
2. Support UWA in the acquisition of monitoring equipment to enhance monitoring and reduce human wildlife conflicts
3. Complete establishment of monitoring trails in LMNP, KVNP, BCFR and KCFR started under the USAID Tourism for Biodiversity Program
4. Support UWA procure equipment for opening and maintenance of roads for natural resource management and monitoring

Model II: Public and Private Sector Involvement in Conservation

1. Disseminate educational and informational materials printed in the last quarter in support of conservation education and awareness.
2. Mobilize communities (youth from colleges and universities, schools and general public) around LMNP and Mbarara Municipality to conserve River Rwizi basin a source of lake Mburo waters used by wildlife and ranchers
3. Implement the Lake Mburo National Park awareness campaign – “for Uganda to thrive, wildlife must survive”
4. Equip LMNP community education center to rejuvenate UWA conservation education programs.
5. Support the increase of the number of women and youth involved in biodiversity conservation through the mentoring program

Model III: Conservation Enterprise Development

1. Support the communities around MFNP and KVNP to increase red chili production for increased household income and problem animal control
2. Support CFM groups of Budongo and Kalinzu to increase honey production in order to increase their household income
3. Engage the district and sub county administrations and the private sector to provide extension services to improve livestock enterprises and productivity to the communities around LMNP
4. Organize refresher and new training for wildlife scouts in MFNP and KVNP

Model IV: Management of wildlife outside protected areas

1. Work with the local government in Kaabong district to approve the implementation of the Karenga and Lobalangit land use plan
2. Develop a conservancy constitution and seek approval from land owners
3. Organize a study tour for UWA and communities to enable them learn about conservancy develop and how it can be adapted in Uganda
4. Initiate the process for development of guidelines for management of community wildlife areas (conservancies) for UWA.